Information Science and Technology Center Seminar



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National Research Council's Computer Science
and Telecommunications Board

"Understanding Cyberattack as an Instrument of U.S. Policy"

Friday, April 23, 2010 1:15 - 2:30 PM TA-3, Bldg. 1690, Room 102 (CNLS Conference Room)

Abstract: Much has been written about the possibility that terrorists or hostile nations might conduct cyberattacks against critical sectors of the U.S. economy. However, the possibility that the United States might conduct its own cyberattacks -- defensively or otherwise -- has received almost no public discussion. Recently, the US National Academies performed a comprehensive unclassified study of the technical legal, ethical, and policy issues surrounding cyberattack as an instrument of U.S. policy. This talk will provide a framework for understanding this emerging topic and the critical issues that surround it.

Biography: Herbert S. Lin is chief scientist for the National Research Council's Computer Science and Telecommunications Board where he directs major study projects at the intersection of public policy and information technology. Relevant for this talk, he was study director of the 2009 Academy study "Technology, Policy, Law, and Ethics Regarding U.S. Acquisition and Use of Cyberattack Capabilities." He previously served as staff scientist in defense policy and arms control for the House Armed Services Committee. Lin holds a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



